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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/824,254 | 04/02/2001 | Shin Iima | 450100-03122 | 1519 |
| 20999 | 7590 | 09/17/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151 | | | ELISCA, PIERRE E | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3621 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/824,254

Applicant(s)

IIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed on 08/17/2004.
2. Claims 1 and 3-37 are pending and claim 2 is canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kocher et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,640,305) in view Tateishi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,669,007).

As per claims 1, 3-4, 8-10, 13-15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34 and 35 Kocher substantially discloses a digital content distribution, comprising:

Digital content data (see., abstract, col 1, lines 17-24, col 5, lines 52-67). It is to be noted that Kocher fails to explicitly disclose a digital content data attached with said cost and converting a data format, wherein said cost (cost or content fee) information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume. However, Tateishi discloses a character recognition that has four-element data converted and a header label that is attached the cost (cost or content fee) [see., col 6, lines 53-59, col 8, lines 5-10, col 12, lines 54-67. Applicant's newly added limitation is also disclosed by Tateishi in the

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abstract, specifically wherein said by summing the costs for the traveled nodes and links, a total cost value can be associated with each path. Please note that it is obvious to recognize that the cost value also includes a price or fee]. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital content of Kocher by including the limitations detailed above as taught by Tateishi because this would facilitate information retrieval in the digital content.

As per claim 5, Kocher discloses the claimed limitation wherein said notification means notifies said management unit of, as transmission information about said digital content data transmitted by said transmission means, at least one of said cost information, information for identifying a sender, information for identifying a recipient, and a data volume of said digital content data transmitted (see., abstract).

As per claims 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36 and 37 Kocher substantially discloses a digital content distribution, comprising:

Digital content data (see., abstract, col 1, lines 17-24, col 5, lines 52-67). It is to be noted that Kocher fails to explicitly disclose a digital content data attached with said cost and converting a data format, wherein said cost (cost or content fee) information includes at least one unit price of said unit data volume. However, Tateishi discloses a character recognition that has four-element data converted and a header label that is attached the cost (cost or content fee) ([ee., col 6, lines 53-59, col 8, lines 5-10, col 12,

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lines 54-67. Applicant's newly added limitation is also disclosed by Tateishi in the abstract, specifically wherein said by summing the costs for the traveled nodes and links, a total cost value can be associated with each path. Please note that it is obvious to recognize that the cost value also includes a price or fee]. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital content of Kocher by including the limitations detailed above as taught by Tateishi because this would facilitate information retrieval in the digital content.

REMARKS

5. In response to Applicant's arguments, Applicant argues that the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fail to disclose:

Applicant maintains that Kocher and Tateishi cannot be combined, the Examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The rationale to modify or combine the prior art does not have to be expressly stated in the prior art; the rationale may be expressly or impliedly contained in the prior art or it may be reasoned from knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art,

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established scientific principles, or legal precedent established by prior case law. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). See also In re Eli Lilli & Co., 902 F.2d 943, 14 USPQ2d 1741 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (discussion of reliance on legal precedent); In re Nilssen, 851 F.2d 1401, 7USPQ2d 1500 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (references do not have to explicitly suggest combining teachings); Ex parte Clapp, 227 USPQ 972 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter); and Es parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993) (reliance on logic and sound scientific reasoning).

Also in reference to Ex parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d, 1301, the court stated that "Obviousness is a legal conclusion, the determination of which is a question of patent law.

Motivation for combining the teachings of the various references need not to explicitly found in the reference themselves, In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 208USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). Indeed, the Examiner may provide an explanation based on logic and sound scientific reasoning that will support a holding of obviousness. In re Soli, 317 F.2d 941 137 USPQ 797 (CCPA 1963)."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Primary Patent examiner

September 15, 2004